









## Intimations.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FURTHER SUPPLY  
of  
**MONTERRAT LIME FRUIT JUICE,**  
CORDIALS,  
JUJUBES, and  
TABLETS.  
MAWSON & SWAN'S  
NEW PATENT WATER FILTERS.  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
Established A.D. 1847.  
Hongkong, 8th May, 1888.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1888.

For the sake of argument it will perhaps be better to accept as *un fait accompli* that the immediate future of the China Sugar Refining Company is in the hands of the influential Syndicate directed by Mr. E. R. BELLIOS. No amount of bounce or bravado, nor any childish and ignorant cackle about "black-and-tans" and heathen Chinese, can remove the thoroughly established fact that more than two-thirds of the Company's shares are at the present moment controlled by the "BELLIOS" syndicate. And such being the case, we are placed in a position from which we can thoroughly deal with the whole of the questions at issue without laying ourselves open to those miserable insinuations which are almost invariably associated in this colony with the independent actions of public men. In our article of yesterday we fully explained what had already transpired in connection with this business; and if we did not sufficiently express it then, we wish to particularly emphasise it now that the greater part, if not the whole of the existing trouble is owing to the incomprehensible obstinacy of the General Agents in blindly ignoring their obligations to the shareholders. Fifty thousand apologies and ten

times that number of explanations cannot do away with the damning fact that Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. have arrogated to themselves absolute rights to treat with contempt and ignominy the just and equitable contentions of shareholders whose interests were protected by legal statutes, which even JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., as was proved when they tried so hard to become owners of the Steamboat Co., cannot over-ride.

The first question to be seriously debated is—Whether Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. will agree to consider the proposals of the dissenting shareholders? There is a good deal more in this than night at first strike the superficial observer. It would be the height of folly to deny that the "princely house" has not made a good thing out of the China Sugar Refinery; but it would be equally foolish not to admit that, as a *quid pro quo*, the special and exclusive advantages possessed by the leading commercial firm in the Far East have been assiduously applied for the benefit of the Company and its shareholders. We might even go so far as to say that the wonderful success achieved for the past ten years has been mainly due to the efforts and influence of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. Still, with all this, it must be recognised that times have altered, and that business management to-day is quite a different thing to what it was in 1878. Candidly and honestly we think that the General Agents ought to seriously ponder over the proposals that will be submitted to them by the BELLIOS syndicate; courtesy is a most inexpensive commodity, and if the demands are not reasonable they can easily be rejected. Had JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. recognised this homely truism in October last, they would have fewer enemies and opponents in Hongkong to-day; but "Brownie's" assistant was allowed to have his way, and here is the result.

No firm in China can manage the affairs of the China Sugar Refining Co. so well as JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. That had better be accepted as a fact, even with Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE as an opposing factor. But, as is the case with the Sovereign of Great Britain, the directors of this industrial enterprise must recognise that they are not omnipotent; we are not now living in the year of Grace 1843, by kind permission of ROBERT JARDINE, Esq. The emoluments of the China Sugar Refinery form one of "the princely house's" most lucrative possessions; what the business yields annually, directly and indirectly, nobody outside the magic circle can even pretend to know; that it is one of the greatest supports in keeping the old established firm in the front rank of Far Eastern commerce is as certain as anything can be. And we will go even further and say that

if the management of the China Sugar Refinery is taken from JARDINE's, other valuable agencies which they monopolise are very likely to quickly follow suit. Mr. BELLIOS is dead, Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK is in London; but surely there is some one in this grand old house with sense enough to recognise the march of progress, and that the "one-firm" domination of twenty, or even ten years ago has departed, never to return? If not, so much the worse for "the princely house."

We trust that the dissenting shareholders will lay their views and proposals before JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. with that amount of consideration and respect which the firm's high position and their past valuable services to the Sugar Refinery demand. And we also hope that the General Agents, profiting by experience, will not repeat their reprehensible and short-sighted folly of last October. The question at issue, after all, should not be a very serious one. Requests of this kind are not uncommon where limited liability companies are managed by general agents; therefore there is nothing that can be construed as offensive in this particular instance. If JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. find themselves unable to see their way to accede to the wishes of the dissenting shareholders, they ought to have no difficulty in practically demonstrating to these gentlemen the unreasonable character of their demands. Smart writing and literary fire-works had better be avoided in any reply that may be made on paper; that sort of thing failed ignominiously both at the China Sugar and Dock Company's meetings, as business men and investors generally desire information unhampered by a meaningless diarrhoea of empty words. But we are perfectly certain that the promoters of the present movement are men who will readily agree to give the fullest consideration to any reasonable explanation or proposal that the General Agents may think proper to make.

Now, in the event of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. perpetuating their idiotic policy of October last and arrogantly declining to listen to reason—what will be the result? That the present General Agents will be relieved of their responsibilities may be regarded as a certainty—and what then? It is no use disguising the fact that a serious difficulty springs up here. J. M. & Co. are no doubt a little lower than the angels, and they have failed in their many attempts to establish autocratic East Point rule in Hongkong; but they are nevertheless a great power in the land, and their influence cannot be safely disregarded. There is no other commercial house in the colony that could safely undertake to profitably conduct the business of the China Sugar Refining Company—excepting, of course, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, and we imagine that at the present time the great Pajandrum of the "Talkoo" hong has "other fish to fry." But there is still the alternative of managing the concern by a Board of Directors and a competent Secretary. This idea may be ridiculed by superficial persons who know no better; but, although we see elements of danger in advance, it has a good deal to recommend it. In our humble opinion—whatever it may be worth—the fat old times of general agencies have about run their course in Hongkong; within the next few years they will be as extinct as the dodo. Perhaps, as regards the China Sugar Refining Co., the time for such a change has not yet come, but nevertheless it is inevitable. The cost of management of the Hongkong and Macao Steamboat Company under the general agency of Messrs. AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co. annually averaged about \$50,000; managed by a Board of Directors—who have generally been, with a few exceptions, incompetent idiots—and a Secretary, the total charges have amounted to something under \$1,000 per annum. The tremendous difference between these two amounts is both suggestive and encouraging. Till it must not be forgotten that the management of the China Sugar Refining Co. is not quite on all fours with running four or five steamboats on the Canton River; in fact, the difference is so vast that it should not be overlooked by the members of the Sugar Syndicate who are building up high hopes on this comparison. That the business of the China Sugar Refinery could be economically and efficiently conducted by a Board of Directors and Secretary is not impossible; but all the same it presents some difficulties which will not easily be overcome.

We have heard it asserted that if JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. are ousted from the General Agency of the China Sugar Refinery, they will have an opposition running at East Point within six months. The wealth of this old established firm cannot be controverted; their influence in the Far East is accepted generally as an article of faith; that they could quickly start an opposition sugar refinery is likely enough,

but that they will do so at an expenditure of a quarter of a million of dollars out of mere pique appears incredible. When the Hon. W. K. K. K. head of JARDINE's in China, was Chairman of the China Sugar Refining Co., he publicly declared some three years ago that there was not room in Hongkong for three opposing refineries; his view was undoubtedly a correct one, and it holds good to this day. Of course any threat of opposition would be regarded by the shareholders with the contempt it deserves; but improbable as it may be, opposition is a factor that should not be entirely left out of consideration in dealing with the whole question. And now we can sum up the case in a few words. If JARDINE's will only be reasonable, they are entitled to have every consideration shown them; if they prove offensively obstructive, as was the case last October, then it is for Mr. BELLIOS and his supporters to conserve their own interests in the way they think best. But it will be a pity for all concerned if the present shareholders of the China Sugar Refinery and JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. fail to come to terms.

Before concluding, there is one little matter to which we consider it advisable to specially direct attention. Owing to the movement of the Syndicate in appropriating all available shares to enable them to hold the upper hand, the market quotation for this stock has risen to a point or two over \$160 per share. This quotation is absurd, and has no practical justification. The business of the Company may possibly permit an interim dividend of 3 per cent., although in all probability the profits may not justify any such return. But even allowing for the most sanguine anticipations, figures indicate plainly enough that the actual value of the stock does not exceed \$135 per share. We are, of course, writing of investments, not speculations. Should the General Agents accede to the petition of the shareholders and agree to a reduction of their commissions and charges, does anyone in his right senses imagine that such concession will amount to a thirty per cent. increase of net profits? If so, we are glad that Governor DE VŒUX has lately sanctioned the immediate construction of a spacious asylum for lunatics, for that establishment will very quickly have plenty of tenants. And on the other hand, if JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., as is quite possible—should refuse to come to terms—ought that to keep the value of the shares at 60 per cent. premium? We fail to see it. In course of time the economy of management may amount to a considerable item, but at first the retirement of the present General Agents will practically mean the loss of the Company's business. That is a risk that doubtless has been foreseen and provided for by Mr. BELLIOS and his supporters, and we only mention it in order that investors in local stocks may accurately realise what an uncertain investment China Sugars are until existing difficulties have been satisfactorily adjusted.

## TELEGRAMS.

(Ruler.)

## THE DEFENCES.

LONDON, June 6th.  
The House of Commons has passed by a large majority, a vote of 245,000 for the defence of coaling stations.

## THE NEW WINE DUTIES.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that he will confine the wine duties to sparkling wines.

(From Straits Times.)

LONDON, May 30th.

Count Kalnoky has given assurances to Monsieur Decrais which, it is hoped, will satisfy France.

## FRANCE AND GERMANY.

BERLIN, May 30th.

The Nord Deutsche Gazette states that the New Frontier measures are intended not so much as reprisals, as for the consolidation of the re-acquisition of Alsace, which has hitherto been retarded by French preparations for the revanche, that, as nearly twenty years of German moderation has failed to lessen French hatred, it is now desirable to restrict intercourse between the countries; if France retaliates by keeping out Germans from visiting France, such a course will not be regretted, as dangerous frictions may thus be avoided.

(From the Avonir du Tonkin.)

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

PARIS, May 31st.

The Minister of Marine and the Colonies insists, notwithstanding M. Constant's opinion, on the suppression of the general Budget for Indo-China.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The first eclipse of up record was a lunar one, and was observed at Babylon 721 B.C.

The Austro-Hungarian frigate *Fauna*, Capt. E. von Wohlgenuth, arrived yesterday from Batavia.

The German Squadron, which left here on May 23rd, arrived at Singapore on the morning of the 31st ult.

Car accidents occur in Manila with a frightful frequency. The local newspapers narrate continual cases of collisions, breakdowns and accidents of various descriptions.

The British gunboat *Merlin*, Lieut.-Commander W. H. Maturin, arrived this morning from Hongkong.

A NEW YORK paper says it took just one month to count the \$158,575,545. 83 in the New York Sub-Treasury.

The London *Academy* declares that it is in France that the keenest love for poetry now manifests itself.

Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co. inform us that the steamship *Lennua*, from London, &c., left Singapore yesterday for this port.

On the 31st inst., twenty-five years ago, the city of Manila was completely destroyed by an earthquake, one of the most disastrous which has occurred during this century.

According to the latest news received in Manila from the Caroline Islands, affairs in Ponape were progressing favourably, and the state of health of the Spanish colony was very satisfactory.

A DEAF MUTE, living in Silesia, is reported to have written to Dr. Mackenzie offering to sacrifice his larynx if it be possible to transfer it to the German Emperor at the throat. Dr. Mackenzie replied to the man that the loss of his life would neither help the Emperor nor benefit science.

The Spanish mail steamer *Reina Mercedes*, having on board General Weyler, Captain-General of the Philippine Islands, arrived at Singapore on the night of the 31st May and left for Manila the following afternoon. The Bishop of Cebu was on board.

It is said that up to his last hours the late Emperor William, conversed freely, and even frequently tried to express himself joyously as of old. When, for example, he was asked if a glass of champagne was to his liking, he replied, "Well, yes, but there have been times when it has tasted better."

REAL merit is not in the success but in the endeavour, and, however, inconsiderable that merit should be, it ought not to go unrewarded. We regret to note that on May 30th, Mr. Charles Ferdinand Keun, who had reached the ripe age of 70 years and had been for 35 years chief clerk of the Oriental Bank Corporation, died at Caylang (near Singapore) on May 10th.

At the recent Bathurst quarter-sessions a man named Green was charged with horse-stealing, and being asked by Judge Dooley if he had anything to say to the jury, he replied, "No, yer Worship, I ain't much of a speaker, but I'd be most obliged if you'd say something to them for me." Eventually his Honor said he would make it three years, and Mr. Green's belief in the efficacy of the learned Judge's eloquence immediately dropped to about 450 degrees below zero.

CHARIOT, the Zanolli of the present century, is reported to be doing first-class business in Singapore. The "show" is said to be by far the best ever seen in the Far East, and Chariot's personal performances, with his magnificent stud of trained horses, would suggest the palmy days of Astley's, somewhere about 1850, rather than Singapore in the present year of grace. The Hongkong public will be glad to see this genius in their midst again.

The shooting of a big dog by a French Customs-house officer in the north of France the other day, has given rise to some queer dog stories in the papers. The officer told the dog because he was suspiciously fat. The post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the dog wore a leather coat made to look like his own skin, and skillfully fastened at the shoulder and haunches in such a way as to completely conceal the ends of the hair. In this coat the dog carried several hundred cigars.

No TSO, aged 15, appeared to-day, on remand, charged by Mr. James Stephen with embezzling the sum of \$100. Complainant, on getting into the witness box, told the magistrate he wished to withdraw the charge as the boy's friends had offered to make the money good. Mr. Sercombe-Smith said he thought it was the best thing complainant could do, as it was rather a doubtful case, and he was quite agreeable to let the matter drop. It is said the Police were in a position to prove that the Chinaman who "robbed" the boy were the frequenters of a gambling house.

We have to acknowledge receipt from the office of the *Japan Mail* of a capably printed and well written report, in pamphlet form, of the Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club. In looking through the events we note that Mr. Easton, a jockey who "won his spurs" in Hongkong in 1881, greatly distinguished himself in the saddle, winning four races in capital style, three of them, including the Champion Stakes, on his own pony *Estoutens*, a cast-off from one of the Shanghai stables. The once invincible half-miler Dandole easily won the Hick Stakes (Mr. Easton up), carrying 11st. 7lb. in 62½ seconds—very good time considering that he had 12lb. over his weight for inches in the saddle.

THERE can be no doubt, says Mr. Labouchere in *Truth*, that the Pope's position in the business is the result of an intrigue. The Duke of Norfolk was sent to Rome to congratulate the Pope on his jubilee. He used the fact of his official position to urge on his Holiness active interference in behalf of Balfourism in Ireland. There were times when the Tory party would never have dreamed of humbly imploring the Pope to come to their aid in their dealings with a portion of the subjects of the realm, and in their efforts to secure themselves in office. So anxious are the Tories to defend the policy of Gladstone, and to hinder him from ever being again Prime Minister, that they would not only go to Rome for allies, but to the Prince of Wales if they thought their appeal to the Pope of Darkness would convert Satan (if he be not already one) into a Liberal-Unionist.

The agitation against the further influx of Chinese immigrants into Australia might not materially affect Hongkong, but it is likely to, by the apparent apathy of local emigration agents and shippers. A trade which involves the transportation of at least six or seven thousand Chinese annually, at a cost of over a quarter of a million dollars, is suddenly stopped, and yet no sign is made. The reason is probably that all the combined interests involved are powerless to do any good here. The battle will have to be fought out in Australia. Until the Chinese are admitted to the right of free emigration, the Chinese will continue to be a "black and white" problem.

The passage money of the hundreds of Chinese has been a very large item in the returns of the competing companies, and freight rates have been low and cargo a scarce commodity. Already Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. have raised the freight 5/- per ton, and if the traffic is prohibited, the tariff will rise another 10/-. The Agents of the China Navigation Company, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, do not say that this will necessarily follow, but they are waiting eventually. The general idea seems to be that Chinese immigration will never be the same again, and we think this is the only reasonable conclusion that can be arrived at.

Don Juan Iriarri has been elected Chairman of the Spanish-Philippine Bank of Manila.

The Manila *Diario* reports an extensive conflagration on the 10th ult. at Antipolo, resulting in the destruction of from 250 to 300 houses. No lives were lost.

This morning Mr. Sercombe-Smith gave a land pirate six months' hard labour for stealing a crucifix from the dining room of Mr. Leonard Coronilla. The prisoner had been convicted on three previous occasions, and was also wanted in connection with a jacket lifting case.

The following were the proceeds of the benefit performance recently given by the Italian Opera Company in Manila. Signora Balzofore, \$900.75; Signor Pozzi, \$870.75; Signor Balzofore, \$868.74; Signorina Piquiti, \$802.25; Signorina Knubel, \$708.50; Signor Falcini, \$620.25; Signor Casati, \$535.25.

HENRY HAWSEN, alias George Smith, an unemployed ship's steward was run-in to-day as a rogue and vagabond, without visible means of subsistence. In an interesting dialogue which took place between the magistrate and the "rogue" it came out that the good old name of Smith had only been borrowed as a matter of convenience, that Hawsen was the baptismal name, but that defendant had a somewhat delicate objection to seeing it in the newspapers which he found other places. He was in gaol in Hongkong before owing to force of circumstances, nobody appeared to want his services, and had applied for a watchman's billet and could "run errands" was agreeable to enter into such a contract for he thought about \$15 per month; reckoned he could live on that. Henry was sent for a month's hard labour at cracking stones on a holystoning deck, till a nice comfortable berth turned up.

THERE is another impertinent and senseless attack on the Superintendent of the Government Fire Brigade in last night's *China Mail*. It is in the form of an anonymous letter, and has every appearance of having been concocted and written in the *China Mail* office. The anonymous scribbler, whoever he may be, is a mean-souled fellow who deserves to be flogged and flogged; and the Editor who allowed such a cur to prostitute the columns of a public journal with base insinuations against an official, who, whatever his business capacity, is at least a gentleman and an honorable man, is too low for tax and feathers—he would soil even that vile commodity. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade deserves it, but he certainly should not be publicly subjected to coarse imputations, which on the face of them are groundless, from an assailant who lacks the spirit and decency to append his name to his attack.

SOON after Victoria had elected her first parliament two candidates of equal popularity were contesting a Southern agricultural constituency. The result of the contest was so uncertain that each would have given anything to win a doubtful vote. Both canvassed the electorate on foot, and one morning a well-to-do Irish farmer, while milking his cows, found himself stuck up by one of the candidates. The politician, to show what a really good fellow he was, volunteered his services and finished seven or eight cows, after which the farmer offered him whisky. Then the candidate for the first time broached politics.

The farmer was asked which would make the better representative. "Well, you are both fools," he replied. "What I have you seen anything of? Well, I have seen you both. I have seen you in the paddock baying and digging up and turning the pigs. He says he will stop there a week if I vote for him. But if you will milk me cows every morning, for a week I'll form a better opinion of your political capacity and give my vote accordingly." He did not remain, and lost the spot by one vote.

We are in receipt of a little pamphlet by Dr. Dobereck, the Government Astronomer, named "Telegraphic determination of the Longitude of Haiphong." From observation made by Monsieur La Porte, who is at the head of the Hydrographic service of Tonquin, and two other gentlemen in Hongkong, the following mean results have been obtained in connection with this subject.

	Observ.	P. and M.	Mean.
1887, April 29	29 57' 7"	29 57' 35"	29 57' 56"
" 6	683	747	715
" 7	715	840	778
Mean	29 57' 7"	29 57' 35"	29 57' 56"

Dr. Dobereck concludes:—The longitude of the transit instrument in the Hongkong Observatory is, according to observations made in 1881 by Lieut. Commander Green, U.S.N., who connected Hongkong with both Madrid and Wladivostok—74° 27' 41.85 east of the meridian of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich; therefore the longitude of the transit instrument in Haiphong is:—

74 6m 44.04 east of Greenwich.

THE alleged malicious prosecution by a native Ecclesiastical agent came before Mr. Sercombe-Smith this morning. Lieut. Col. Cheong was charged with wilfully making a false statement, on oath, whereby the premises of Mr. Chung Sin of the Tai Yün shop, 97 Queen's Road East, was entered and searched on the 29th ult. Mr. Dennis, appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Wotton for the defence. The complainant in his examination by Mr. Dennis said:—I am a Government Contractor and master of the Tai Yün Shop at 97, Queen's Road East. I was born in Hongkong; my father died about twenty years ago and left me a large property in Hongkong amounting to about sixty odd thousands, worth, I should say, from \$10,000 to \$120,000. On the 29th ult. I was in my shop between five and six in the evening when I was visited by ten people who entered my premises by virtue of a warrant and began searching for opium. I had no prepared opium in my shop, on the ground floor. On the 1st floor above, my brother resides in company with my mother and his family. Two men searched my premises and two went upstairs into my mother's apartments for the same purpose. On my premises nothing was found and I knew nothing about the defendants. By Mr. Wotton—I cannot say that the defendant has any ill will against me. My father used to smoke opium and my brother is an habitual smoker of the drug, but I never use it. When they came I don't think there was \$100 worth in the house; it belonged to my brother, not to me. The whole house belongs to me. I only occupy the ground floor as my shop. I believe what was found was placed there by somebody; I know it was. Some were found in a bed room at the back, but I don't know what the total weight was. The female apartments were searched, but I only complain about the searching of my own premises. I have sustained no injury, but that of shame and a disgrace to my reputation and the reason why I have come here is to wipe out that stain from my character. I now want a public apology from the Opium Farmy put in the public papers. Mr. Wotton made a strong plea for a public apology on behalf of the Opium Farmy and promised to have the same published in the two native papers, the *Lat Pau* and the *Lat Pau*. The *Lat Pau* is a paper which on being produced to-day his Worship dismissed the charge.

FROM Manila papers we gather that General Weyler, the new Governor-General of the Philippine Islands, was expected at the capital on the 6th inst. General Melillo, the Acting Governor, has, through illness, transferred his charge to the Naval Commander-in-Chief, D. Pedraza Lobaton.

THREE must surely be smothering wrong with the descendants of Vasco da Gama! At the Marine Court, Singapore, on the 31st ult., two Portuguese sailors were sentenced to three months imprisonment for desertion from the British ship *Emilia L. Boyd*. What explanation has our Macao contemporary, the *Voz do Oriente*, to offer for this extraordinary departure from priestly influence? We wait for a reply.

OUR evening contemporary has lately commenced the practice of sending the telegrams it borrows from other journals, "quoted to the *China Mail*." An imposition equally as barefaced as the morning paper's pushing advertisement for "our original novel." The missionary rag is certainly not very particular as to its journalistic methods, and seems to be rapidly drifting back to the muddy practices so common in the "Gribble-Buglin" days. It managed to get smartly caught the other day in a singular piece of piracy from the *Japan Mail*. This is how our Yokohama contemporary gently rubs down the lower Wyndham Street print:—"In the *Yiji Shimpoo* we find some interesting statistics with regard to legal cases in 1887; says the *China Mail* of the 7th instant, 'The following the greater portion of an original article taken from these columns—a commentary on statistics which we translated from the *Yiji Shimpoo*. If this were an isolated instance of the kind, it would not be worth noting, but as it is a common occurrence, it may be well to point out that the Hongkong paper did not 'find' the article referred to in the *Yiji Shimpoo*, for the reason that it never appeared there."

TWO Chinamen were charged this morning by Inspector Baker with keeping a *Tai-fa* lottery shop at 122, Hollywood Road, on the 7th inst. The men denied the charge, whereupon Mr. Teol-Kwok stepped into the witness box and made the following statement: I am an informant who have known the house and the occupants for some time. The two defendants are engaged in the *Tai-fa* lottery business to my certain knowledge. On the evening of the 7th inst. I went into the house and on the 1st floor commenced the game; I staked ten cents on it and lost. I produce tickets. The two defendants with others were in the same house as myself; the 1st was waiting down stairs and the 2nd on the 1st floor collecting the money. At nine o'clock this morning on visiting the house I found the first defendant writing tickets which also produce. The first defendant, in answer to the Court, denied the charge and the 2nd admitted that an agency was being carried on in the house but not by himself—by a neighbour. This morning, after rice, he went to the premises of the neighbour and while there was arrested; he had no witnesses to support his statement. Mr. Sercombe-Smith fined the two accused each \$50 or six weeks hard labour.

MESSRS. WHEELOCK & CO'S Shanghai Freight Report of June 1st has the following:—

Our last report was issued on the 18th instant; since then we have had another quiet fortnight, scarcely a noticeable point to remark upon beyond the continued dullness of the shipping trade at this port. The ship *Chin Robertson* sailed yesterday for Lolo under home charter. The German steamer *Tetartus*, 1,578 tons register, which proceeded to Hankow under home charter to load for Odessa, had to return to Wosung in ballast, having arrived at loading port after being delayed by a heavy gale. The ship was cancelled and she has since sailed for Saigon.

From Hankow for London via Suez Canal. When last writing the Mutual Co's steamer *Myone* was reported by telegram to be engaged full at £3 per ton, but owing to the low rate of 30s. being accepted by the *Glengyle* and *Prophetus* she had to drop to £2; these three steamers have sailed in the order named. The *Ningchow* sailed yesterday morning. The *Ben* liner *Benueve*, the *Shih* steamer *Glomar*, and *Holts Antenor* are on the berth loading, but the unrepentant low rate of One Pound Sterling per ton. The *Myone* had a cargo of 4,000 tons at £2, the *Glengyle* 3,000 at 30s., and the *Prometheus* 3,750 at 30s. The *Ningchow* left Hankow on May 31st.

For New York via the Cape.—The American ship *Wandering Jew*, 1,650 tons register, has been taken up and placed on the berth at 22½. 6d. per ton and will call at Hongkong to fill up. The American ship *C. C. Chapman* (to arrive) is also advertised.

Quotations are:—Newchwang to Swatow, 2½ Mts.; Swatow to play steam, no enquiry at the moment; Chefoo to Swatow, 1½ Mts.; Swatow to Hongkong, 1½ Mts.; Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.50 per ton of coal net, for steamers demand; \$1.20 ex ship, for sailing vessels. Settlements during the fortnight have been: *Anna Bertha*, German barque, 460 tons register, hence to Tientsin, \$2.50 in full, 20 days; *Dalmeny*, British steamer, 1,184 tons register, Kobe to Singapore, 33 per ton coal, despatch; *Wandering Jew*, American ship, 1,650 tons register, Shanghai and Hongkong for New York, private terms; *Altair*, British barque, 400 tons register, Tientsin to Hongkong, 200 in full, 20 days; *Tetartus*, German steamer, 1,578 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per cwt. despatch. Disengaged vessels in Port: *City of Philadelphia*, American ship, 1,384 tons register; *Ribston*, British barque, 397 tons register.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## THE DOCK COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—I notice by the *London and China Express* of April 27th, 1888, that the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company borrowed from the British Government, in 1887, the sum of £20,000, giving as security a mortgage on the property.

Is this loan not somewhat differently accounted for by the Directors of the Dock Co. in their reports to the shareholders, and made to bear quite another deflation?

What interest do the Dock Co. pay the British Government for this accommodation, and for how long have they borrowed the money?

Why were the new Chinese Revenue cruisers docked at Singapore in preference to Hongkong?

How is it that if Governments or Ship Co. have possibly been able to dock their vessels anywhere other than Hongkong they always do so lately?

Any information you can give the shareholders on the above queries will be particularly valuable to them just now.

Yours faithfully,

ENQUIRER.

Hongkong, June 5th, 1888.

(I) In the Company's Report for the half-year ended 30th June 1888, it is stated that in consideration of the construction of the new Dock the Admiralty would make \$1,000,000 grant-in-aid, which would be paid in three instalments, the first instalment of \$333,333.33 being paid on the 1st day of July 1888, the second instalment of \$333,333.33 on the 1st day of January 1889, and the third instalment of \$333,333.33 on the 1st day of July 1889.



